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may be represented to have been burnt, as the number of horses among the tribe is very small. Although, according to their belief, when an Indian dies, his spirit goes to the East, which they consider the "White Man's Hunting Ground," and where he would be unable to hunt, were his spirit deprived of these valuable aids. The remains are then *covered with earth*, whether really *buried* I could not ascertain.

Amongst the Sioux, when an Indian hands to another a stick, it implies a horse, and as soon as the recipient hands the stick to the donor (when at the latter's camp) the horse is given in return. This custom is only observed while a party have collected to dance, and the object is, that when an Indian is rich enough to be able to give away a horse, his vanity is so immense, that he must relate his brave deeds, (Count his Coos) and for the purpose of having at least one admirer upon whom he can depend for applause, and flattering notices, as "How brave!" a noble Dacotah! etc., etc., he looks over the assemblage in a dignified manner and presents some one present with a stick of wood (about a foot in length, and thick as a finger,) for which a horse will be given on the following morning.

A similar custom *might*, partially be used, to, so to use the term, burn a horse in effigy, thereby saving a *poor* tribe a valuable member; for I must say the horses are the better of the two. I have seen and been amongst probably thirty sub-tribes, but the Pah-Utes, of the above named region are the only ones with whom we came in contact, who "Cremate."

Very sincerely,

W. J. HOFFMAN,
103 S. Sixth street.

Stated Meeting, December 18th, 1874.

Present, 17 members.

Vice-President, MR. FRALEY, in the chair.

A letter accepting membership was received from Mr. A. Selwyn, dated Montreal, Dec. 8, 1874.

Letters of acknowledgment were received from the Royal Observatory, at Prag, Oct. 8, (XV, i, 90, 91); the Batavian Society, at Rotterdam, Sept. 26, (89); and the Victoria Institute, London, Nov. 28.

A letter inviting subscription to three sheets of photographic portraits of members of the Hungarian Academy, was received from M. L. Aigner, Buda-Pest.

A letter of envoy was received from the Linnean Society, at Bordeaux.

A letter declining to sit upon the Meunier Committee, on account of necessary and imperative engagements, was received from Prof. Guyot. A similar communication being received from Prof. Cook, the committee was discharged from consideration of the subject.

Donations for the Library were reported from the Royal Batavian Academy and Observatory; the Society at St. Gall; the *Revue Politique*; *Nature*; the Meteorological Committee of the R. Society; Essex Institute; Boston Natural History Society, and Mr. Edmund Quincy; Prof. Alfred Mayer; American Chemist; Penn Monthly; Medical News; College of Physicians; College of Pharmacy; Mr. Isaac Lea; Historical Society of Maryland; U. S. Commission of Fisheries; Engineer Department, U. S. A.; and Surgeon General, U. S. A.

An obituary notice of Chief-Justice Read was read by Mr. E. K. Price.

A communication on the alleged Parallelism of Coal-beds, by John J. Stevenson, was read by the Secretary.

The appropriations recommended by the Finance Committee were adopted.

Pending nomination 764, and new nomination 765 were read.

On motion of Mr. E. K. Price, a Standing Committee of Botanists to supervise the purchase and planting of trees for the Michaux Grove, in Fairmount Park, purchased out of the Michaux fund proceeds, was appointed, consisting of five members—Mr. A. H. Smith, Mr. C. E. Smith, Mr. Thomas Meehan, Dr. J. A. Leidy, and Dr. J. L. LeConte.

On motion, a committee of three was appointed to consider the subject of the communication made to this Society by the Baron de la Roncière de Noury, at the last meeting, consisting of Prof. Lesley, Mr. Briggs, and Prof. P. E. Chase.

And the meeting was adjourned.

The following letter furnished for the minutes by Mr. Price, will explain the history of the purchase of the oaks in Europe.

OFFICE OF CHIEF ENGINEER,
OF FAIRMOUNT PARK,
Philadelphia, Dec. 10th, 1874. }

HON. ELI K. PRICE,

Chairman Com. on Nurseries, &c.

Dear Sir:—One of the objects aimed at in establishing the Michaux Grove and Nursery, was to have in the Park not only a school for study, in which might be seen trees, of valuable quality, but also the means of detecting the spurious and unreliable varieties which are sold for pure species. In order to do this, we should be able to show every variety of Oak that will live in this climate, including the sports with the names attached by respectable nurserymen at home and abroad. This is just what I have endeavored to do. Immediately after the resolution by Park Commission, of May 14th, 1870, authorizing the expenditure of \$500 for Oaks, several respectable arborists were consulted as to where a collection of Native Oaks could be had, and the result was to get some 12 or 15 species of American Oaks, being all that I found in American Nurseries differing from well-known species already growing in the Park. Several young trees of each of these species were bought and planted on the site selected for a Michaux Grove. Catalogues were then procured from several foreign Nurseries, naming over 100 species and varieties of the genus *Quercus*. On my visit to England, in 1872, Dr. Hooker, the learned Director of Kew Gardens, was consulted, and several of the largest British Nurseries were visited, and over 80 so-called species and varieties of Oaks were examined. On my next voyage in 1873, other nurseries were visited, and then the first order was given for foreign trees, embracing from 3 to 6 plants of each of some 100 species and varieties and sports, with the names they bore in the catalogues of the most respectable Nurseries. When the invoices were received, it was evident that some of the names were misspelled. As the requisite corrections could not be made at the time, the bills were laid before the Park Commission for payment, the names forwarded in the English invoices were unchanged with the expectation of having the proper corrections made at an early day. The work of correction was commenced, but has been interrupted by my illness, and thus the uncorrected lists were unexpectedly laid before the Philosophical Society. The examinations made during my illness, show that a large proportion of the names are to be found in the list published by Paxton in his Botanical Dictionary, and also in that most complete descriptive work, the Arboretum, of London, and also, elsewhere. While I have been preparing this statement in a condition of great suffering and almost of helplessness from the violence of continued pain, my wife has kindly marked 49 of these identified names with descriptions from which any expert Botanist may recognise the plants. This work of identification, Mr. Estabrook is quite willing to undertake as soon as the spring shall bring out the foliage.

Truly yours,

JNO. C. CRESSON, *Chief Engineer.*